

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An object-oriented method of collecting information regarding a plurality of target applications in an ~~application-unit~~ appliance or device, comprising:

receiving, from a first one of the plurality of target applications through an interface, by a monitoring device in the ~~application-unit~~ appliance or device, a request to send first information regarding monitored usage of the first one of the plurality of target applications to a first predetermined destination through a first communication protocol using a first data format; and

receiving, from a second one of the plurality of target applications through the interface, by the monitoring device, a request to send second information regarding monitored usage of the second one of the plurality of target applications to a second predetermined destination through a second communication protocol using a second data format, wherein the first communication protocol is different from the second communication protocol.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the first data format includes one of text format, binary format, comma separated format, and eXtensible Markup Language (XML) format; and

the first communication protocol includes one of Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP), File Transfer Protocol (FTP), and local disk.

3. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the first data format is different from the second data format.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, further comprising:

formatting the first information into first formatted data according to the first data format;

sending the first formatted data to the first predetermined destination through the first communication protocol;

formatting the second information into second formatted data according to the second data format; and

sending the second formatted data to the second predetermined destination through the second communication protocol.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 4, wherein formatting the first information comprises:

creating a first software class having a declared virtual function;

creating a second software class, derived from the first software class, having a first definition of the declared virtual function; and

creating a first formatted information software object.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 5, wherein creating the first formatted information software object, comprises:

formatting first formatted information according to one of comma separated format and XML format.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 5, wherein sending the first formatted data, comprises:

creating a third software class, derived from the first software class, having a second definition of the declared virtual function; and

creating a first formatted data software object.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 7, wherein creating a first formatted data software object, comprises:

formatting first formatted data according to one of binary format and text format.

9. (Currently Amended) An object-oriented system for collecting information regarding a plurality of target applications in an ~~application-unit~~ appliance or device, the system comprising:

a monitoring device in the ~~application-unit~~ appliance or device, the monitoring device configured to receive, from a first one of the plurality of target applications through an interface, a request to send first information regarding monitored usage of the first one of the plurality of target applications to a first predetermined destination through a first communication protocol using a first data format, and to receive, from a second one of the plurality of target applications through the interface, a request to send second information regarding monitored usage of the second one of the plurality of target applications to a second predetermined destination through a second communication protocol using a second data format, wherein the first communication protocol is different from the second communication protocol.

10. (Previously Presented) The system according to Claim 9, wherein the first data format includes one of text format, binary format, comma separated format, and XML format; and

the first communication protocol includes one of SMTP, FTP, and local disk.

11. (Original) The system according to Claim 9, wherein the first data format is different from the second data format.

12. (Original) The system according to Claim 9, further comprising:

a device configured to format the first information into first formatted data according to the first data format;

a device configured to send the first formatted data to the first predetermined destination through the first communication protocol;

a device configured to format the second information into second formatted data according to the second data format; and

a device configured to send the second formatted data to the second predetermined destination through the second communication protocol.

13. (Previously Presented) The system according to Claim 12, wherein the device configured to format the first information, comprises:

a device configured to create a first software class having a declared virtual function;

a device configured to create a second software class, derived from the first software class, having a first definition of the declared virtual function; and

a device configured to create a first formatted information software object.

14. (Previously Presented) The system according to Claim 13, wherein the device configured to create the first formatted information software object, comprises:

a device configured to format first formatted information according to one of comma separated format and XML format.

15. (Previously Presented) The system according to Claim 13, wherein the device configured to send the first formatted data, comprises:

a device configured to create a third software class, derived from the first software class, having a second definition of the declared virtual function; and

a device configured to create a first formatted data software object.

16. (Previously Presented) The system according to Claim 15, wherein the device configured to create the first formatted data software object, comprises:

a device configured to format first formatted data according to one of binary format and text format.

17. (Currently Amended) A program product for collecting information regarding a plurality of target applications in an ~~application-unit~~ appliance or device, the program product comprising a computer readable medium embodying program instructions for causing an object-oriented system to perform the steps of:

receiving, from a first one of the plurality of target applications through an interface, by a monitoring device in the ~~application-unit~~ appliance or device, a request to send first information regarding monitored usage of the first one of the plurality of target applications to a first predetermined destination through a first communication protocol using a first data format; and

receiving, from a second one of the plurality of target applications through the interface, by the monitoring device, a request to send second information regarding

monitored usage of the second one of the plurality of target applications to a second predetermined destination through a second communication protocol using a second data format, wherein the first communication protocol is different from the second communication protocol.

18. (Previously Presented) The program product according to Claim 17, wherein the first data format includes one of text format, binary format, comma separated format, and XML format; and
the first communication protocol includes one of SMTP, FTP, and local disk.

19. (Original) The program product according to Claim 17, wherein the first data format is different from the second data format.

20. (Original) The program product according to Claim 17, wherein the program instructions cause the system to further perform the steps of:

formatting the first information into first formatted data according to the first data format;

sending the first formatted data to the first predetermined destination through the first communication protocol;

formatting the second information into second formatted data according to the second data format; and

sending the second formatted data to the second predetermined destination through the second communication protocol.

21. (Previously Presented) The program product according to Claim 20, wherein formatting the first information, comprises:

- creating a first software class having a declared virtual function;
- creating a second software class, derived from the first software class, having a first definition of the declared virtual function; and
- creating a first formatted information software object.

22. (Previously Presented) The program product according to Claim 21, wherein creating the first formatted information software object, comprises:

- formatting first formatted information according to one of comma separated format and XML format.

23. (Previously Presented) The program product according to Claim 21, wherein sending the first formatted data, comprises:

- creating a third software class, derived from the first software class, having a second definition of the declared virtual function; and
- creating a first formatted data software object.

24. (Previously Presented) The program product according to Claim 23, wherein creating the first formatted data software object, comprises:

- formatting first formatted data according to one of binary format and text format.